

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-6 and 16-18 are withdrawn. Claims 7 and 14 have been changed by this amendment. Claims 8-13 and 15 remain unchanged.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Rejection of claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunn et al. (PCT WO 00/56128) (hereinafter Dunn)

Applicants have amended claim 7 to add the phrase "on the surface" to the following text of claim 7: "patterning two conductive end terminations on the surface of the substrate; patterning a first layer of resistive material having a first sheet resistance to have a first width and to extend on the surface of the substrate between the two conductive end terminations". The addition of the phrase is supported by page 3, lines 4-13 and FIG. 3, which describe an embodiment of the invention. Fig. 3 clearly shows the conductive end termination 110 being on the surface of the substrate 105 and the text at lines 9-11 describes the first resistive layer being applied on the surface of the substrate.

Inasmuch as the two conductive end terminations of Dunn are not on the surface of the substrate as now claimed in amended claim 7, applicants believe that the rejection of claims 7-11 is overcome.

Rejection of claims 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn as applied to claim 7 above, in view of Swenson et al. (6,534,743) (hereinafter Swenson).

Applicants believe that claims 12-13 are patentable inasmuch as they rely upon claim 7, which applicants believe to be patentable. Notwithstanding this reason, applicants believe that Swenson only contemplates coarse and fine tuning by laser trimming a resistor comprising a resistive material having a single bulk resistivity. Applicants' claim 12 explicitly requires a fine tuning kerf to be cut in a high sheet resistance material of a resistor comprising a high and low sheet resistance material. Applicants believe that Swenson does not teach or motivate achieving a fine tuning kerf cut using the high resistance material of a resistor having both high and low

resistances. For this reason, applicants believe that the rejection of claims 12 and 13 has been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-15 were objected to, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 has been rewritten to include the descriptions of claims 7, 12 and 13. Applicants therefore believe claim 14 is allowable, and that claims 15, being dependent upon rewritten claim 14, is also allowable.

Applicant notes that any amendments or claim cancellations made herein and not substantively discussed above are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments or cancellations not substantively discussed. Furthermore, any remarks made herein with respect to a given claim or amendment are intended only in the context of that specific claim or amendment, and should not be applied to other claims, amendments, or aspects of Applicant's invention.

Applicant specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of differing and broader scope than those presented herein, in a continuation application. The Applicants believe that the subject application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicants.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

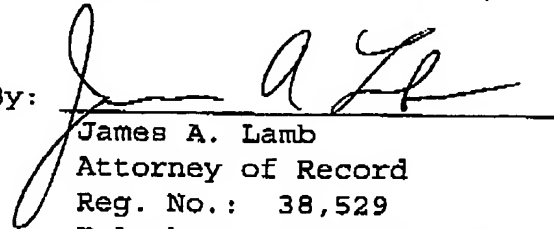
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Respectfully submitted,

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